

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, GW, GW, UR, WB

SUBJECT: GDR DELEGATION VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GDR PARTY AND STATE VISIT TO MOSCOW HAS
BEEN PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN ALL MAJOR EAST BERLIN
NEWSPAPERS AND IN OTHER MEDIA OVER PAST TWO DAYS.

FIRST THREE PAGES OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND HAVE BEEN TAKEN
UP WITH REPORTS OF VISIT AND TEXTS OF SPEECHES BY
HONECKER, BREZHNEV AND OTHERS. CAPSTONE OF THIS
PUBLICITY WAS PUBLICATION ON OCTOBER 8 OF FULL TEXT
F NEW GDR-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WAS SIGNED OCTOBER 7 IN MOSCOW

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ON 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE GDR . END SUMMARY:

2. NEWS REPORTS ARE SACCHARINE IN THEIR DESCRIPTION OF GDR DELEGATIONS' ARRIVAL WITH FREQUENT ALLUSIONS TO "CORDIALITY, FRIENDSHIP AND WARM-HEARTEDNESS" OF RECEPTION BY HIGH LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIALS INCLUDING BREZHNEV AND BY SOVIET CITIZENS ALONG ROUTE TO TOWN FROM AIRPORT. NEWS BROADCASTS REPORTED OCTOBER 8 THAT "POLITICAL" PORTION OF VISIT HAD TERMINATED AND THAT DELEGATION WAS ON TRIP AROUND SOVIET UNION. SMALL NEWS ITEM REPORTS RECEIPT BY GDR CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINDERMANN OF SOVIET MEDAL.

3. GDR DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FROM BERLIN AIRPORT ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 6 WAS ATTENDED BY EASTERN DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV (WHO LATER JOINED GROUP IN MOSCOW), MEMBERS OF SED POLITBURO WHO STAYED BEHIND, AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET FORCES IN GDR. IN DAYS PRECEDING DEPARTURE, SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD IT 15TH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION AND VOLKSARMEE GENERAL HOFFMAN RETURNED FROM HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

4. HONECKER'S SPEECH ON HIS FIRST DAY IN MOSCOW AND HIS INTERVIEW ON SOVIET TELEVISION OCTOBER 5 WERE MAIN COMPONENTS OF PRESS COVERAGE HERE. THESE EMPHASIZED THE INVIOABILITY OF BORDERS CONCEPT WHICH GDR SPOKESMEN HAVE REPEATED SINCE HELSINKI BUT ALSO STRESSED THAT A "NEW STAGE" HAS BEEN REACHED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF HELSINKI. HONECKER STATED THAT THE SAME SINGLE-MINDEDNESS AND GOOD WILL WHICH LED TO HELSINKI WILL BE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE REALIZATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONFERENCE. HONECKER SAID THAT THE GDR WAS READY TO DO ITS PART IN THIS EFFORT. HE THEN, HOWEVER, COUNTERBALANCED THIS BY POINTING TO THE "CONTRADICTIONS" HE SAW IN WESTERN SOCIETIES, WHICH, HE SAID, PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR REALIZATION OF THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES ON THE ONE HAND BUT ALSO SEEMED TO SUPPORT "IMPERIALISTIC ADVENTURES" ON THE OTHER. HONECKER CONCLUDED (AS HE DID IN HIS SEPTEMBER 11 SPEECH) THAT THE GDR MUST BE "EVER WATCHFUL" OF IMPERIALIST ACTIONS.

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5. EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN ON FOUR DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF THE GDR INCLUDED CEREMONY AND MILITARY TATTOO ON OCTOBER 6 AT MEMORIAL ON UNTER DEN LINDEN AND "VOLKSFEST" ON ALEXANDERPLATZ OCTOBER 7. NEITHER EVENT PRODUCED BIG TURNOUTS, PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF COLD AND RAINY WEATHER, BUT ALSO BECAUSE GDR HAS DECREED A TONING DOWN OF MILITARY DEMONSTRATION ON NATIONAL DAYS. COOPER

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